



## VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Jason Salazar, Chief of Police*

---

Liz Jones, Public Safety Police & Fire PIO,  
Media & Communications Manager  
(559) 713-4370 (office) / (559) 713-4807 (fax)  
Elizabeth.Jones@visalia.city

**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***  
**July 27, 2023**

### Man Armed with Knives Threatening “Suicide by Cop” Arrested at Motel 6

Around 1 p.m., VPD officers were called to the Motel 6 on Noble Avenue for a man causing a disturbance in one of the motel rooms. When officers arrived, they approached the room and found 37-year-old William Shirk armed with knives. Officers told the suspect to drop the knives and show his hands, but he did not comply. Shirk became uncooperative and said he wanted officers to shoot and kill him.

The VPD Hostage Negotiation Team responded to the motel and pleaded with Shirk to follow commands, but he refused. Officers used tear-gas, a less lethal option, to draw Shirk out of the room. He was arrested without further incident.

Shirk was booked at the Tulare County Adult Pre-Trial Facility for terrorist threats, resisting arrest with violence, felony vandalism and trespassing.

